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was a Representative from Worcester in the Legislature of the State, and from 1844 to 1848 was Judge of Probate for the county of Worcester.

In 1853 he was appointed a Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. He held this office for six years with distinction, and then resigned it, and, coming to reside in the neighborhood of Boston, began, as a member of the bar in that city, a long, honorable, and profitable career, which ended only with his death.

During this period he was for one term, from 1861 to 1863, a member of the national House of Representatives. In 1868 he was nominated by the Governor to the office of Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, to succeed Judge Bigelow; but a strong opposition, on political grounds, prevented his confirmation by the Council. He was also invited to a chair at the Law School of Harvard University; but while he did not accept this position, he consented to deliver lectures at this School, and also at that of the institution in Boston.

He died at his summer place, in Beverly, Mass., Sept. 27, 1878, at the age of sixty-five.

Judge Thomas was a man who would have been distinguished in any community. He is worthy of special commemoration upon the records of this Academy, as one of the few men of his profession who have combined devotion to their calling, and success in it, with the love and study of philosophy and literature. What is not so rare, but is rarer than it should be, they were combined also with the preservation of the ardent affections and the wholesome instincts and tastes of a generous nature.

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## ASSOCIATE FELLOWS.

### WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT.

THE death of WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT removed from the list of our associate members one of the most eminent names in the annals of American literature. The familiar phrase of Tacitus has rarely been applied with more justice than it may be to Mr. Bryant: "*Felix non vitæ tantum claritate, sed etiam opportunitate mortis.*" For he died, not only full of years and full of honors, but before age had wasted his faculties or diminished his powers of service. He had lived long enough to enjoy his own fame, and to be assured that his name would

be inscribed on the roll of the worthies of the nation. He had seen his country grow from comparative feebleness to a great power, and he had had a share, not only in influencing its political tendencies, but in determining its moral ideals. The last was his more important work, and it is as a poet who gave appropriate, elevated, and refined expression to the moral sentiment of the community that he will be chiefly remembered. His verse bears the stamp of New England. It is the outcome of the grave piety, the sober joys, the reflective seriousness, of the elder mood of the country. In this sense it belongs rather to the past than to the present; but the truth and felicity with which they express common and natural feelings and emotions will secure to the most widely known of Mr. Bryant's productions a permanent place in the pages of the household book of American poetry.

It is not needful here to give even a summary of Mr. Bryant's biography. This work has been done well where it might be done more appropriately. For his intellectual activity displayed itself chiefly outside the fields cultivated by this Academy. It is required only of us to bear our testimony of honor to the memory of a poet and public servant, who, born in Massachusetts, has, at his death, been claimed by the nation for its own.

#### JOSEPH HENRY.\*

JOSEPH HENRY, who was united with this Academy as an Associate Fellow on May 26, 1840, was born in Albany, N. Y., on December 17, 1799, and died in Washington, D. C., on May 13, 1878, in the plenitude of his years, his labors, and his honors. The child is always father to the man: but there was nothing in the childhood or youth of Henry to proclaim the advent of one whose life would be a blessing to mankind, and whose death would be felt as a nation's loss. Descended from Scotch ancestors, who had recently emigrated to this country, and losing his father at an early age, he passed a large part of his youth under the care of his maternal grandmother, at Galway, in Saratoga County. Here he attended the district school until he was ten years old. Then he was taken into a store, where he was treated kindly and allowed to be present at the afternoon session of the school. Obtaining access to the village library, at first by accident, afterwards by stealth, and finally by permission, he revelled in an ideal world of

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\* The death of Professor Henry, although reported last year, took place so near the time of the annual meeting, that this notice was necessarily deferred until the present Report.